

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 10409

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: REACTION TO ELLSBERG CHARGES RE CIA IN MEXICO

REF: MEXICO 10373

1. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, DANIEL ELLSBERG, IN MEXICO CITY INTERVIEW ON NOVEMBER 24, SAID THAT "THE BIGGEST CIA STATION IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE OPERATES IN MEXICO" AND CALLED UPON GOM AND MEXICAN PEOPLE TO "UNMASK" AND EXPEL CIA AGENTS.

2. ENTERPRISING AND INSISTENT REPORTERS CORNERED GOM OFFICIALS ON NOVEMBER 25 TO ELICIT REACTION TO ELLSBERG STATEMENTS. FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA RESPONDED THAT GOM WOULD EXPEL "EACH AND EVERY (CIA) AGENT RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERVENTION." INVESTIGATIONS INTO THIS SUBJECT, HE ADDED, WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, NOT THE SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS.

3. SENATE LEADER ENRIQUE OLIVARES SANTANA (FAILING IN HIS EFFORT TO REFER REPORTERS TO ANOTHER SENATOR), SAID THAT THE SENATE "CANNOT ACCEPT THE EXISTENCE OF ORGANIZATIONS (I.E. THE CIA) OF THAT TYPE BECAUSE THEY VIOLATE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY." HOWEVER, OLIVARES CHIDED REPORTERS FOR PURSUING A THEME WHICH "DAMAGES THE COUNTRY AND SMACKS OF SENATIONALISM." HE WAS SKEPTICAL AS REGARDS ANY PROOF OF
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ELLSBERG'S ALLEGATION. PRI PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOSE

LOPEZ PORTILLO, QUERIED BY A REPORTER OF FAR-LEFTIST EL DIA, COMMENTED: "IF TRUE (ELLSBERG'S STATEMENTS), THIS IS REALLY A TROUBLESOME SITUATION, IN LIGHT OF THE RESPECT DUE US AS A NEIGHBOR AND SOVEREIGN NATION." HE PROMISED TO INFORM HIMSELF ON THIS SUBJECT IN ORDER TO MAKE A "RESPONSIBLE" STATEMENT.

4. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE ELLSBERG STATEMENTS THUS FAR. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED NACIONAL IS IGNORING THE STORY THUS FAR. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT IF GOM FEELS THAT MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE SUBJECT IS GETTING OUT OF HAND, THE GOM MAY AGAIN PROVIDE "GUIDANCE" TO DOWN-PLAY THE ISSUE, AS HAPPENED EARLIER WITH TREATMENT OF THE PHILIP AGEE REVELATIONS.
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